

August 1, 2008

To: All Interested Parties

The 2003 State Legislature passed statutes (77-2-361 through 367 MCA) authorizing the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) the ability to sell state school trust land and utilize those funds to purchase replacement lands for the school trust through a process called Land Banking. To date, the DNRC and the State Board of Land Commissioners have sold 24,284 acres of Trust Land and purchased 26,070 acres of replacement lands.

The intent of Land Banking is for the state to sell scattered tracts of land that generally lack legal access, generate little revenue or are small and difficult to manage and to purchase property that is blocked or contiguous to state land, has legal access, has potential for increased revenue and is more efficient to manage.

The DNRC is considering the sale of the School Trust Land listed below. These tracts are located in Garfield County (2,566 acres), and Rosebud County (17,842 acres). These tracts were nominated for sale by Lessees and the DNRC, and meet the criteria for sale under Land Banking due to their low income production, lack of legal access or low recreational use value.

We are currently conducting an analysis under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), of the impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed land sale. The analysis will be completed for all of the tracts under consideration prior to presenting a list to the Land Board for preliminary approval. If approval is received from the Land Board, DNRC will then conduct appraisals to estimated value and recommended a minimum bid price for each tract proposed for sale. The list will then be brought back before the Land Board to establish a minimum acceptable bid for each tract and approval to proceed with the sale process.

By this letter, DNRC is seeking comments under MEPA regarding the possible sale of these tracts. Comments will be considered if received no later than **August 30, 2008** and may be sent to:

Rick Strohmyer
321 Main Street
P.O. Box 1794
Miles City, MT. 59301

e-mail: rstrohmyer@mt.gov

Additional information on the Land Banking process is available on the DNRC website at: http://dnrc.mt.gov/trust/land_banking/about.asp

If you have further questions call me at (406) 232-2034.

Sincerely,

Rick Strohmyer
Area Manager
Eastern Land Office: DNRC

Tracts Being Considered for Sale

County	Township	Range	Section	Legal	Acres
Garfield	14N	38E	16	All	640
Garfield	19N	36E	16	All	640
Rosebud	10N	38E	36	All	640
Rosebud	9N	39E	16	All	640
Rosebud	9N	39E	36	All	640
Rosebud	9N	35E	36	All	640
Rosebud	9N	36E	16	All	640
Rosebud	9N	36E	36	All	640
Rosebud	10N	39E	36	All	640
Rosebud	10N	43E	16	All	640
Rosebud	10N	44E	36	All	640
Rosebud	7N	42E	36	N2NW4, NE4	240
Rosebud	7N	43E	16	All	640
Rosebud	7N	44E	16	All	640
Rosebud	8N	42E	36	All	640
Rosebud	8N	43E	16	All	640
Rosebud	8N	43E	36	LOTS 1 - 4, N2, N2S24	641.76
Rosebud	8N	44E	16	All	640
Rosebud	8N	44E	36	All	640
Rosebud	9N	40E	16	All	640
Rosebud	9N	42E	36	All	640
Rosebud	9N	43E	16	All	640
Rosebud	9N	43E	36	All	640
Rosebud	9N	44E	16	All	640
Rosebud	10N	40E	16	All	640
Rosebud	10N	42E	16	All	640
Rosebud	11N	41E	36	All	640
Rosebud	11N	42E	36	All	640
Rosebud	7N	42E	16	All	640
Rosebud	10N	34E	16	All	640
Rosebud	12N	32E	26	N2	320

